

February 18, 2016

Appropriations Committee
Health Topics

Dear Appropriations Committee;

Greetings to all, my name is Ileana Garcia, Windsor resident for just over two years and prior Hartford resident for almost 26yrs. I am a registered voter and I am currently taking a course in Parent Leadership Training to become a parent/child advocate. I am concerned about the proposed budget cuts that Governor Malloy recently discussed. As in this budget it is expressed that cuts will be made to include the Mental Health costs and Developmental Services such as, Birth to three. I am the parent of a wonderful six year old child that once benefited of a birth to three program as well as my youngest who also presented some type of developmental delays. My oldest now benefits from outpatient therapy and related services that may include OT and PT services as he is on the Autism Spectrum also presenting with ADHD, mostly inattention and the programs receiving possible threats in cuts will impact my family greatly. As an active member of my community I know that many low income, but hard working families will also suffer the changes. I understand that in order to have a healthy, productive community it is essential that we tackle these situations when they first present themselves. We as a community do nothing making cuts to fit our states budget, but over spend on other areas that are certainly important, but not at the cost of our growing generation, our children. The Department of Developmental Services should in fact reach out to those in need of special services and adaptations. In the future I would like to see that we take pro action and take prevention of certain types of behaviors so that we have less people struggling to fit into a world that certainly does not take their special needs into consideration so strongly that they are cast out of the place where they should feel safest in, their community, their home. As a matter of fact with the outburst in recent years of children diagnosed with some type of developmental disorder or Autism for example, I would suggest that we as a whole explore new and updated programs and facilities to help this growing population. I refuse my child's voice not be heard, I refuse the idea of providing him mediocrity in education, community events, medical attention among others. He and others like him struggling to make it in an "alien type" environment should atleast be given respect, consideration and opportunities to rise beyond their struggles so they can become productive members of our communities. I thank you all for your time and consideration in my testimony. I hope that my story helps in any way possible that you consider those in this category as extraordinary members of the community you represent.

Yours truly,

Ileana Garcia